

The Realities of Teen Parenting



Parenting Project

Developed by
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TITLE: The Realities of Teen Parenting

GRADE LEVEL: Grades 9-12

PRODUCTS: Data Interpretation

Oral Presentations

Teen Parent Interview

Case Study Projects

Family Activity Packet

Adoption Issues

Assessment of Community Resources & Services

Final Report & Summary

DRIVING QUESTIONS:

1. Are you aware of how many teen pregnancies take place in the U.S. each year?
2. What choices would you have about the baby if you were to become pregnant?
3. Once the child arrived, what changes would happen in your life?
4. What are some child support issues you would have to cover?
5. How would you care for your baby?
6. What financial responsibilities are involved in having a baby?

COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS: (Family & Consumer Science)

By completing the project goals, the student will be able to:

5.1 Analyze roles and responsibilities of parenting.

5.1.2 Examine expectations and responsibilities of parenting.

5.1.3 Recognize consequences of parenting practices to the individual, family and society.

5.4 Evaluate external support systems that provide services for parents.

5.4.1 Assess community resources and services available to families.

5.5 Analyze physical and emotional factors related to beginning the parenting process.

5.5.2 Consider the emotional factors of prenatal development and birth in relation to the health of the parents and child.

FACS CONTENT KNOWLEDGE:

Key Words: Family, Pregnancy, Responsibility, Self-control, Emotions, Acceptance, Challenges, Choices, Support Issues, Finances, Adoption, Advice, Community Resources & Services, Planning

ACADEMIC SKILLS:

SD Communication/Language Arts Standards (9-12th)

Goal 1 Indicator 4 Benchmark a: access and use multiple information sources for a variety of purposes.

Goal 1 Indicator 4 Benchmark c: compile and synthesize information to make reasonable and informed decisions.

Goal 2 Indicator 4 Benchmark b: write to analyze, synthesize, interpret, and use new information.

Goal 3 Indicator 1 Benchmark b: apply effective listening techniques for creative problem-solving and collaborative decision-making.

PROCESS OUTCOMES:

Foundation Skills: *Basic Skills*- Reading, Speaking, Writing, Listening & Thinking
Thinking Skills- Decision Making, Problem Solving & Reasoning
Personal Qualities- Individual Responsibility
Interpersonal Skills: Teamwork
Information: Acquiring and Evaluating Data, Interpreting & Communicating

PLANNING TIMELINE:

Every year approximately one out of every ten teenagers, ages 15-19 years of age, becomes pregnant. These teens face many challenges that will undoubtedly affect them for the rest of their lives. This project will increase the student's awareness of the social, emotional and financial challenges involved in teen pregnancy and parenting.

*This project will take 7-9 class periods to complete.

The activities the student will do to increase their knowledge of what is involved with teen parenthood include:

Activity 1. Interpreting data about teen pregnancy rates in the United States using a website. The student will log on to www.agi-usa.org/pubs/teen_preg_stats.html and complete the questions on the handout called "**Interpreting the Data**". After the questions have been completed, summarize your findings.

Activity 2. Interviewing a teen parent using the **Teen Parent Interview** worksheet. The student will write up a list of 12 to 14 questions to be asked of a teen parent. Questions could range from feelings, costs, responsibilities, acceptance, socialization, health (physical changes), family and societal reactions, future outlook or whatever questions you might have.

The questions must be typed in a usable format to be used during the interview.

Please include the following information about the interviewee:

Mother's first name, her age at the time of the baby's birth, the baby's first name and present age, and the mother's marital status. If time allows following the interview, write an essay on your interview findings.

Activity 3. Complete the Case study Projects entitled:

Problems of Teen Parenthood

Discussing Paternity and Child Support Issues

Responding to Advice and Comments

Activity 4. Complete the financial activity for mother and baby. Using various resources including local hospital, furniture and clothing stores, catalogues or the Internet, fill out the **Adding a New Member to the Family Activity Packet**.

Activity 5. Examine adoption as an alternative. Read the article from the **February 2003** Issue of the **Choices** Magazine on pages 10-14 entitled "Giving Up Matthew". If the magazine article is not available, find an article on adoption as an option. Once you have completed reading the article, answer the questions on the **Adoption as an Option worksheet**.

Activity 6. Assess community resources and services. The student will utilize information by contacting Social Services about the WIC (Women, Infants, & Children) Program, ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) Program, and the Welfare Services (Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance, Housing and Heating Assistance, etc) available for teen parents. Complete the **Assessing Community Resources & Services worksheet**.

Activity 7. Complete a final **Summary Paper** on your views of teen parenting. This paper is to include your personal views and feelings of what you have learned about the roles and responsibilities of raising a child while in your teens. Your report will be presented orally.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT:

The computer lab will need to be accessed for several of the activities. A Teen Parent will need to be interviewed. The Choices Magazine article will be utilized. Information from Social Services will be utilized.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Check out the scoring rubric to see specifications for different grading levels.
Stay within the set timeline in order to meet expectations.
Complete all necessary forms required for the project.
Conduct a "Teen Parent" interview.
Assess your community resources and services.
Complete your final summary paper and give final oral presentation.

ASSESSMENTS:

ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTENT:

Rubric- Assessment of Academic Content

PERFORMANCE TASKS:

Interpreting the Data
Teen Parent Interview
Problems of Teen Parenthood
Discussing Paternity and Child Support Issues
Responding to Advice and Comments
Adding a New Member to the Family
Adoption as an Option
Assessing Community Resources & Services
Final Summary Paper
Oral Presentation

RESOURCES: The Developing Child Student Workbook Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2000

Interpreting the Data

Activity #1

Name _____

Date _____

Research teen pregnancy rates in the United States using the following website:

www.agi-usa.org/pubs/teen_preg_stats.html

Use **Table 1** for the following information.

1. Has the number of sexually active women increased from 1986 to 1996? Explain.

2. How does the pregnancy rate between whites and nonwhites compare percentage wise in the year 1996? _____
3. Which year, between 1986 to 1996, was there the lowest abortion rate? _____
4. Is the 1996 pregnancy rate the highest among whites, blacks or other nonwhites? _____
5. Out of every 1,000 women in the United States between ages 15-19, how many became pregnant in 1996? _____

Use **Table 3** for the following information.

1. What was the total number of teens, ages 15-19, who became pregnant in 1996? _____
2. Of the above number, how many were from South Dakota? _____
3. Which age category in South Dakota has the higher pregnancy rate? _____
4. Which state most closely compares to South Dakota in the 15-19 year age group? _____
5. Which state in the United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate among 15-19 year olds? _____

Give 5 reasons why you think this state has much higher statistics compared to other states.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Use **Table 5** for the following information.

1. According to table 5, what was the abortion rate per 1,000 women in 1996 in the United States? _____

How does that compare with the abortion rate in 1985 in the United States? _____

2. How many South Dakotans became pregnant per 1,000 ages 15-19 in 1996? _____ Of that number, how many gave birth? _____ How many aborted? _____
3. How do the 1996 statistics from above compare with the 1985 statistics overall? _____

State reasons why you believe there has been an increase or decline in the number of births and abortions.

Summarizing the Information

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Teen Parent Interview

Activity #2

Interviewer's Name _____

Teen Parent's First Name _____

Age at the time of baby's birth _____

Baby's first Name _____

Baby's present Age _____

Mother's Marital Status _____

Interview Questions:

1. _____

Response: _____

2. _____

Response: _____

3. _____

Response: _____

4. _____

Response: _____

5. _____

Response: _____

6. _____

Response: _____

7. _____
Response: _____

8. _____
Response: _____

9. _____
Response: _____

10. _____
Response: _____

11. _____
Response: _____

12. _____
Response: _____

13. _____
Response: _____

14. _____
Response: _____

***Summarize your findings.**

Problems of Teen Parenthood

Activity #3A

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Take the role of The Straight Talker, a teen advice columnist, and answer the following letters from teens looking for help. Write your responses in the spaces provided.

1. Dear Straight-Talker,

I am a single parent who is a junior in high school. I live at home with my parents and my four-month old daughter, Cory. My parents support my daughter and me, and Mom cares for Cory while I'm at school. I get above-average grades and take care of Cory in the evenings. Cory's father left me when I got pregnant. A boy from school has been asking me out. I'm aching to have some fun, but my parents say I can't. They say I'm a parent now, and I should stay home and take care of my responsibilities—studying and the baby. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Aching to Have Fun

2. Dear Straight-Talker,

My ex-girlfriend had my son eight months ago. The court ordered me to start paying \$125 a month to support the baby now that I'm eighteen. I'm an athlete, and I want to win a scholarship to go to college. And I have to work hard at my classes to keep my grades up. I can't just drop my sport or let up on studying so I can get a job. I want to help the baby, but I've got to prepare for my life. What should I do?

Sincerely,
In a Jam

3. Dear Straight-Talker,

Since my little baby was born, I've been living at home with my parents. They were really great at first, helping out a lot. Since the baby's father has never even seen him, that was a tremendous help. I'm trying hard to be the best mother I can be. I've gotten a job, and I'm studying at night to try to get a better job. But between work and classes, I'm not home very much. Now my mother is taking over with the baby. She tells me how and when and what to feed him, how to bathe him, when to put him to sleep, and how to bring him up. It's like she thinks Sean is her baby, not mine. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Stuck

4. Dear Straight-Talker,

When my girlfriend Trina got pregnant, we talked about getting married but decided to wait until the baby was born. By then, I knew that I didn't really love Trina. I wasn't even there for Rachel's birth, and Trina got really mad at me, but I had other things to do. Now she's pushing to get married, but I really don't want to be tied down—all Trina does is cry and complain about how much work the baby is. She said that if I don't marry her, she won't let me see the baby. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Frustrated

Discussing Paternity and Child Support Issues

Activity #3B

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read the following case studies and you will see more and more reasons why establishing paternity is important. Discuss each case in class and explain what you would do or say if you were in a similar situation.

1. Rudy would like to take care of his girlfriend Jane and their baby; however, Jane's mother does not want Rudy to be involved. Now Jane and her family are moving to another state. What are Rudy's rights under the law? What legal steps can he take?

2. Teresa and Darren, both high school students, have a baby. Teresa knows that Darren is seeing another girl. Darren has been giving Teresa \$20 a week. What if he stops giving Teresa money?

3. Helen and Bob had a baby girl two years ago. Steps were not taken to make Bob the legal father. Helen has not seen Bob in over a year. Now she sees Bobby's picture in the paper. He just won \$1 million in the state lottery. Can Helen get some of the money for her daughter?

4. John and Becky had a son four years ago, but John never paid child support or was declared the legal father. Becky has been having a hard time paying her bills. When looking for John, who joined the military, she learns that he was killed in a car wreck just two weeks ago. Can Becky now receive any assistance for her son?

5. Natalie and Robert are going to have a baby in three months. Robert is excited about the birth and is making plans to support the baby. Three days before the baby is born, Natalie marries Rick, Robert's older brother. Who is the legal father of the baby?

6. Maria is temporarily in this country from El Salvador. She and her boyfriend Tom have a little boy. Tom is a U.S. citizen. What does Maria need to do to be sure her baby is also a U.S. citizen?

7. Susan and David have been together for a long time, and Susan had a baby. Susan gave the baby David's last name and put his name on the birth certificate as the baby's father. David does not think the baby is his. What can David do?

8. When Leslie tells Leroy she is pregnant and wants him to sign paternity papers, he says: "No, and don't try to force me. I'll just deny that it is my baby." What might Leslie say to him?

9. When Karen asks Brent to sign paternity papers, he says: "You don't need to file paternity against me. I'll give you money every week and we'll still be together." How might Karen respond?

10. When Linda tells Steve she is pregnant and will need help with child support, he says, "I can't pay child support. I am in school and I don't have a job. Besides, you don't need money from me; just get on welfare." What can Linda do?

11. When Derek tells Nicole he wants to be a father to their baby, Nicole says: "I don't care if you want to help with the baby. I never want to see you again." What can Derek do?

Responding to Advice and Comments

Activity #3C

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read the following suggestions that will help you learn how to accept advice from others. Then read the situations below and decide whether you should listen or ignore the comment. In the space provided, tell how you would respond.

Getting support from others can be helpful, but getting advice is another matter. You may have a friend or relative who wants to tell you *everything* you should do or feel. When you don't experience things the way she did, you may become confused or fearful. Even strangers like to be helpful, perhaps by opening doors or offering their seat on the bus, but many times their comments are inappropriate. The following suggestions will help you learn how to respond:

Decide whether the person is offering support or advice. To do this, ask yourself how the comment makes you feel. It *is feels* supportive, then it *is* supportive. If it upsets you and contradicts what your doctor or teacher told you, then it is not supportive. Trust your judgment. Use your own good sense.

Choose the people who will be supportive to you. Ask: Is the person well informed? Does this person have the knowledge to be giving advice? Is this person someone who is close to me and whom I trust? Does this person have my best interests in mind?

Ignore comments from advice givers. You don't have to tell them that you are discounting their advice. Simply thank them for their interest and walk away. Then go ahead and forget the "advice" they gave you.

Activity: Read each situation. Decide whether you should listen to or ignore the comment. Then tell how you would respond.

1. You are on your way to the doctor's office, wearing a T-shirt that says "Baby on board." Someone at the bus stop says: "Are you pregnant? You don't look old enough."

2. You used to be overweight and are determined not to look fat again. The nurse tells you that you are not gaining enough weight. She tries to persuade you to eat more food.

3. Your aunt says: "You'll probably have to have a Cesarean. I had to, you know, with all three of my

babies.”

4. A friend says: “Your hips are so small! How will a baby ever get through?”

5. Your mother says: “You don’t have time to go to the movies. When are you going to do your homework?”

6. An acquaintance says: “Looks like you’ve got a loaf in the oven! When’s the baby due?”



“Adding a New Member to the Family”

Activity #4

Name _____

Adding a new member to the family can mean many things:	Medical Expenses	Estimated Cost in the 1980's	Local Estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in income if the parent has been working and leaves her/his job • An adjustment to a new way of life • A special wardrobe for the mother-to-be • Necessary supplies and furnishings for the baby • Clothing for the baby • Additional room for the baby in the home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab fees for pregnancy test • Private doctor's fee, including prenatal visits, delivery (unless Caesarean), and six week post-natal check-up • Or doctor's fee at a local maternity clinic • Vitamin and Iron pills • Hospital fee—including delivery room, anesthesia, nursery, mother's room (semi-private for 4-5 days), medication 		
<p>Some basic costs must be considered in the family financial plan when preparing for a new member. Since prices of items will vary in different communities, an estimated cost is listed with space allowed for recording cost of similar services locally.</p>	Maternity Wardrobe for the Mother-to-be		
	Basic foundation garments		
	Basic maternity clothes		
	Baby Furniture		
	Baby's Layette		
		\$ 14.50	
		\$400.00	
		\$300.00	
		\$ 30.00	
		\$325.00	

Estimated
Cost

\$ 28.50

\$125.00

\$225.00

\$ 70.00

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

Your Final Estimate

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____



BASIC NEEDS FOR THE MOTHER-TO-BE AND THE BABY

The cost of these items will vary throughout the country; therefore, it is suggested that comparative shopping in two local stores or one store and a catalog be used to obtain costs. Compare prices, decide which items you feel are necessary, and determine the final estimate.

Maternity wardrobe

Basic Foundation Garments

Basic Maternity Clothes

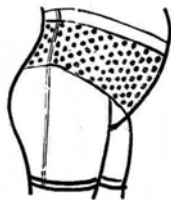


Bras (3)—regular or nursing

\$ _____ \$ _____

Stretch Panties (6)

\$ _____ \$ _____



Slips (2)—expandable front or sides

\$ _____ \$ _____

Elasticized Panty Girdle (1)

\$ _____ \$ _____

Long Leg Girdle (1)—with stretch section in front

\$ _____ \$ _____

FOUNDATION GARMENTS

Other items you feel are necessary:

Cost

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Your Final Estimate \$ _____

Transfer this total to front page.



Tops (4)

\$ _____ \$ _____

\$ _____ \$ _____



Skirt (1)—with opening or stretch panel in front

\$ _____ \$ _____

Slacks (2) or Capris—with opening or stretch panel in front

\$ _____ \$ _____



All-Purpose Dresses (2)

\$ _____ \$ _____

After-Five Dress (1)

\$ _____



Nightgown (2)

\$ _____ \$ _____

Maternity Clothes

Other garments you feel are necessary:

Item

Cost

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Your total estimate \$ _____

Which of these items could you make?

Which would you borrow?

Are there other ways you feel costs could be reduced? _____

Your final estimate \$ _____

Transfer this total to front page.



BABY FURNITURE



Bassinet & Pad

\$ _____ \$ _____

Crib & Mattress



Bassinet & Pad



Crib & Mattress



High Chair



Diaper Pail

\$ _____ \$ _____

High Chair

\$ _____ \$ _____

Diaper Pail

\$ _____ \$ _____

Stroller

\$ _____ \$ _____

Bath Tub

\$ _____ \$ _____

Dressing Table

\$ _____ \$ _____

Car Seat

\$ _____ \$ _____

FURNITURE

Other pieces of furniture you feel are necessary:

Item	Cost
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Your total estimate	\$ _____

Which of these items would you borrow?

Which of these items could be anticipated as gifts? _____

Are there other ways you feel cost could be reduced? _____

Your final estimate \$ _____

Transfer this total to front page.



Stroller



Bath tub



Dressing Table



Car Seat



BABY'S LAYETTE

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 <p>Bassinet Sheets (3) \$ _____</p> <p>Crib Sheets (4) \$ _____</p>  <p>Mattress pads (2) \$ _____</p>  <p>Thermal Blankets (2) Receiving Blanket (4) \$ _____</p>  <p>Small Waterproof Pads (4) \$ _____</p>  <p>Diapers</p> <p>Cloth (2 doz.) \$ _____</p> <p>Disposable (4 cases) \$ _____</p>	 <p>Onesies (4) Pajama Sleepers (4) \$ _____</p>  <p>Bottles (6-12) Towels & Washcloth (2) \$ _____</p>  <p>Toiletries (cotton balls, oil, lotion, shampoo, powder, etc.) \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OTHER LAYETTE ITEMS YOU FEEL ARE NECESSARY:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Item</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>_____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Which of these items would you borrow? _____</p> <p>Which of these items could be anticipated as gifts? _____</p> <p>Are there other ways you feel costs could be reduced? _____</p>	Item	Cost	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	 <p>Sweater, Cap & Bootie Set (1) \$ _____</p>  <p>Bibs & Burp Rags (4) \$ _____</p>  <p>Knit Gowns (4) \$ _____</p> <p>Your final estimate \$ _____</p> <p>Transfer this total to the front page.</p> 
Item	Cost											
_____	\$ _____											
_____	\$ _____											
_____	\$ _____											
_____	\$ _____											

“Adoption as an Option”

Activity #5

Name _____

Directions: This activity is to be used in conjunction with the article, **“Giving Up Matthew”** found in the **February 2003** issue of the **Choices** magazine on **pages 10-14**. If this article is not

available, look for another magazine or Internet article on adoption as an option. Answer the following questions.

1. Though most teens aren't equipped to be good parents, very few pregnant teens decide to give up their babies for adoption. Why do you think that is?

2. When she was having unprotected sex, Amber did not think she could become pregnant. Do you think that attitude is common among teens who have sex? How could they make such a major mistake?

3. Amber says, "I wasn't getting love at home, so I was looking for love in the wrong places. "What does she mean by that? Do you think kids who have loving parents are less likely to make bad choices? Why or why not?

4. Can you understand why Amber wants to see photos of her son and get more information about him? Do you think she should be given what she asks? Why or why not?

5. Does it sound as if Amber would be a good mother if she has children in the future? How would her children's lives differ from her own childhood? What lessons would she probably find it important to teach her children?

Accessing Community Resources

Activity #6

Name _____

Directions: To complete this activity, you will need to contact you local Social Services office in the county in which you live and get the information needed for the following questions.

1. What is the WIC program?

2. Who qualifies for this program?

3. What food and other items are issued through the WIC program?

4. How does a person sign up for this program?

5. How long can a person qualify for this program?

6. What is the ADC program?

7. Who qualifies for this program?

8. What is included through this aid program?

9. How long can a person qualify for this program?

10. What services are available through the South Dakota Welfare System for teen parents? Be specific.

“The Realities of Teen Parenting” Performance Task Rubric

Name _____

Date _____

Value or Point System	“A” or 30-28	“B” or 27-26	“C” or 25-23	“D” or 22-21	“F” or 20- below
Requirements (Different Activities may have different point values awarded, due to more in-depth work.	All information completed on time with thought, consideration and completeness	All information completed in a timely fashion with thought and consideration	One or two questions not completed	Three or more questions not completed	Unanswered questions with incomplete thoughts
“Interpreting the Data”					
“Teen Parent Interview”					
“Problems of Teen Parenthood”					
“Discussing Paternity and Child Support Issues”					
“Adding a New Member to the Family” Activity Packet					
“Adoption as an Option” Worksheet					
“Assessing Community Resources & Services” Worksheet					

Total Points Possible: _____

Total Points Earned: _____

Comments: